Discontent due to non-stoppage of trains

†*438. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is aware that there is grave discontent among people as there is no halt of various trains at Dhenkanal Railway Station (Khurdha division of Eastern Railway) and Boinda Railway Station (Sambalpur division of East Coast Railway) in Orissa;

(b) if so, by when this feeling of discontent will be resolved;

(c) whether she will consider halting of 2879/2880 Bhubaneswar-Mumbai-Bhubaneswar train at Dhenkanal Station; and

(d) whether arrangement for halting of Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Intercity Express at Boinda Station will be made?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) At present, out of 13 pairs of trains passing Dhenkanal station, 12 pairs of trains including 9 pairs of Express trains are stopping at Dhenkanal and out of 11 pairs of trains passing Boinda station, 7 pairs of trains including 6 pairs of Express trains are stopping at Boinda. The stoppage of 2879/2880 Bhubaneswar-Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus) Express at Dhenkanal and the stoppage of proposed 8105/8106 Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Intercity Express at Boinda are under examination.

Private sector investment in education

*439. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to allow private sector investment in education;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has asked Max India Chairman to prepare a feasibility paper thereon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Even at present private sector participation exists in the funding and management of educational institutions as long as surplus earned is reasonable and the same is ploughed back for development of institutions. The 11th Plan document as approved by the National Development Council, also mentions the need to further explore private sector initiatives and various forms of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the education sector.

The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) encourages non-governmental and voluntary efforts in Education, while preventing the establishment of institutions which intend to

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

commercialize Education. The Policy envisages that in the interest of maintaining standards and for several other valid reasons, the commercialization of technical and professional education will be curbed. An alternative system will be devised to involve private and voluntary efforts in Education, in conformity with accepted norms and goals.

Government had recently convened a Round Table on Higher Education on 21st October 2009 to advise on important areas of growth in the education sector including the finances to meet the demands of expansion and quality of higher education. During discussion, it was felt that in the matter of skill development and vocational education, a different model needs to be evolved which grants a greater role to the private sector and where the structural requirements of setting up institutions are far more flexible than that for other higher educational institutions. It was decided that alternative models that provide structural flexibility and financial freedom need to be evolved. The Round Table has decided to entrust the responsibility of development of a concept paper to one of its members, Shri Analjit Singh, Chairman of M/s. Max India Ltd.

Celebration of Sanskrit Week

*440. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of activities included in the celebration of 'Sanskrit Week' by Government in the last three years; and

(b) the steps his Ministry contemplates to take to make 'Sanskrit Week' an effective one?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi (RSkS), Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri / Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth (SLBSRSV), New Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth (RSV), Tirupati, which are Deemed Universities, have been celebrating 'Sanskrit Week' with great enthusiasm and fervour every year in the month of August. The last day of 'Sanskrit Week', coinciding with Sharavana Purnima (Raksha Bandhan Diwas) is observed as the 'Sanskrit Diwas'. These Universities have been organizing various programmes to highlight the importance of Sanskrit language and its heritage, conducting literary and cultural competitions for students in essay writing, debate, antyakshari, music, dance, drama etc., and winners are awarded prizes at the end of the competitions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Assistance to NGOs in Uttarakhand

3237. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: